

STATE SENATOR • MARTHA G. SCOTT

Scott Press Release



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**SEN. SCOTT PRAISES COMMITTEE MEMBERS
FOR SUPPORT IN MOVING LEGISLATION TO FULL SENATE**

*Bill Designates Third Saturday In June As Juneteenth National Freedom Day;
November 26 Of Each Year As Sojourner Truth Day*

(LANSING) – Senator Martha G. Scott (D-Highland Park) applauded the members of the Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee today for their support of her legislation. Chaired by Sen. Laura Toy (R-Livonia), the committee unanimously voted to report Senate Bill 384 from committee. The bill designates the third Saturday in June as Juneteenth National Freedom Day; and declares November 26 of each year as Sojourner Truth Day in the State of Michigan.

“We are one step closer to making Juneteenth an official holiday observance in our State,” said Sen. Scott. “It is only fitting that we also recognize and celebrate the important contributions of one of this country’s most famous African American woman, who lived the latter part of her life in Michigan.”

The Juneteenth celebration originated in Texas during the Civil War period, when news of the Emancipation Proclamation signed by President Abraham Lincoln in September of 1862, to become effective on January 1, 1863, did not reach Texas slaves until June 1865. The slaves immediately left the plantations, congregated in the cities and began celebrating their freedom by praying, feasting, dancing, and singing. Juneteenth is now an official state holiday in 15 states across the country.

Born a slave named Isabella in 1797, Sojourner Truth chose her new name soon after she left slavery. She traveled the country speaking passionately about the evils of slavery and advocated strongly for the equal rights of women.

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Settling in Michigan in 1857, Truth inspired many to work in support of human rights issues.

Senate Bill 384 is now awaiting action on the floor by the full Senate.

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Senator Scott represents the 2nd Senate District, which includes areas of Detroit and the cities of Hamtramck, Harper Woods, Highland Park and all of the Grosse Pointes. She serves on the Senate Appropriations Committee.